



MINUTES
SPECIAL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

January 21, 2014
11:00 a.m.
City Council Chambers

Action

Present: **Mayor D. Canfield**
 Councillor C. Gallivan
 Councillor R. Lunny
 Councillor R. McKay
 Councillor R. McMillan
 Councillor L. Roussin
 Councillor S. Smith
 K. Brown, CAO
 C. Caron, Property & Planning Manager
 T. Rickaby, Planning Administrator
 J. McMillin, City Clerk
 H. Lajeunesse, Deputy Clerk
 ~ ~ ~

1. Presentation to Council by Heritage Kenora Committee

Heritage Kenora Committee representatives Lori Nelson, David Nelson, Tim Davidson and Charlotte Caron were present to speak to Council regarding their Committee. Committee Chair Tim Davidson indicated that some members had attended a training session in the Fall of 2013 where it was suggested that such committees meet with their Councils at least once per year to give an update on what they have been working on. It was noted that this is the first time they have gone away to attend training and found it very beneficial to network and discover what other communities are doing.

Lori Nelson provided Council with a committee background from Fall 2005 when they were first established. The creation of the committee came from the Downtown Revitalization movement, a key economic development project plan with the focus to establish Kenora as a destination community. Kenora sought to determine and embrace its own uniqueness, which would then become the defining influence for Downtown Revitalization. It was

decided then that forming a committee was a great way to move forward.

Upon initiation the Committee was to determine guidelines for a Community Improvement Plan (CIP), which started as a report to establish a thematic element as to how redevelopment could occur. The group ended up with an idea which focused on heritage aspects, and suggested they could encourage people to go with uniqueness when building and redesigning. Patterns for redevelopment were defined as a guideline, without restrictions and only to provide direction, and ideas came from viewing old pictures of Kenora. The idea was to fulfil the patterns but to do so in a modern way.

Heritage Kenora seeks to promote the built and landscape heritage in Kenora and their function is advisory to Council on matters of municipal heritage designations and defining properties that have heritage value. They have also been tasked with the administration of the Harbourtown Community Improvement Plan (CIP), in which it provides matching grants for business owners to upgrade the appearance of their buildings in the downtown Harbourtown Centre area. The intent of the plan is to target improvements to existing buildings and properties, and is not directed towards future new developments in Harbourtown Centre.

Lori shared with Council that there was no expectation that the program would be as successful as it has been and the community support by local businesses has been huge. It has allowed community members to be a part of Kenora's unique redevelopment in their own way and has proven that heritage preservation is an important part of economic development. Winnipeg has also looked to Kenora for guidelines in terms of their own development efforts.

The City has invested \$476,000 in façade improvements through the CIP since the program was first established in 2005. Over \$1 million has been invested in total including private and City funds. Based on building permits issued the estimated actual value of the improvements is at \$3.5 to \$4 million, which represents an eight to one return on the City's investment.

Lori indicated that the program does have limits on what they can provide in terms of funding and it is hopeful that Council will continue funding the CIP with a contribution of \$100,000 for 2014 to allocate in matching grants. The Committee will be looking for even more funding from Council in 2015 with Phase III of Downtown Revitalization along Second Street South expected to draw in more applications, adding that private investors are supportive and willing to put funds towards improvements.

Lori shared details with Council on the Committee's future plans. There are plans to continue the CIP program and they would also like to continue with municipal heritage property designations. In 2014 they are moving forward with an application to designate Mink Bay wetlands as a municipal heritage site. Other private property owners have expressed interest in municipal designations and the committee will continue to work with them as well. With regards to budget, the Committee is anticipating two designations this

year for which they have allocated funds, and same as in previous years they are requesting \$2,000 for travel and training, \$1,600 for advertising, \$200 for administration including office and postage and \$200 for their annual membership fees to the Ontario Heritage Association.

Council commended the group for their great work and successes and thanked them for their presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.